

WT 11-65

# KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Henry C. Shores  
Commissioner

W. Kent Carper  
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Dave Hardy  
Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 18, 2011

Received & Inspected

AUG 24 2011

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

This letter is a comment in favor of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile, which is on your WT 11-65 docket.

As a longtime resident of West Virginia, and as a Kanawha County Commissioner, I am always interested in ways to bring more opportunities and economic benefits to the people and communities of my state. It is clear the outcome of this merger will bring these benefits to West Virginia. In fact, my research indicates this will bring ultra-fast wireless broadband to most areas of this state, particularly to rural areas, and will make this reliable, enhanced service available to 90% of Mountaineers.

Access to the next generation of wireless broadband brings opportunities that can improve quality of life and economic well-being. We can all benefit from telecommuting, telemedicine, and distance learning, as well as improved quality of communication and public safety for residents and visitors alike. This technology promises future innovations in every industry, bringing business growth and job creation. =.

West Virginia includes many rural communities, and they have been waiting for advanced communications technologies for some time. This merger represents the end of that wait, and a solution to a public policy problem. The post-merger partnership will bring expanded and enhanced service, quality, and speed to our entire state, and it will do so quickly, without the use of public funds.

I'm excited about the opportunities high-speed wireless broadband will bring to families, businesses, schools, and communities throughout West Virginia, and I'm optimistic about the outcome of this merger. Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Hardy".

Dave Hardy

County Commissioner, Kanawha County, West Virginia

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CC:

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Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell

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